

Naval Aviation Optometry Course



**Naval Aerospace Medical
Institute
Pensacola, Florida**

SECO 98



F/A-18F Super Hornet

**Maximum visual efficiency
is fundamental to flight proficiency
and safety.**

AV-8B Harrier



There has been an increase in the use of contact lenses and night vision devices by Navy and Marine Corps aviators over the past 10 years. Recently, there has been interest in refractive surgery. It is important to know what is authorized in Naval Aviation.



CH-53E Super Stallion

Safe and successful completion of operational missions relies heavily upon the aviator's acute awareness of the unique characteristics, capabilities, and limitations of the human visual system.

Development

The need to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and consultative vision services to the aviation community has been the stimulus for the creation of the Naval Aviation Optometry course.

Mission

- **To provide optometrists with the skills and self-confidence essential for optimal support of the naval aviation community.**
- **Development of a strong and positive identification with the collective personality, lifestyle, and professionalism of naval aviation.**

Description

- **Four weeks of academic and clinical training at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute in Pensacola, Florida**
- **Course is taught primarily by staff optometrists but includes clinical and academic support from other medical staff specialists.**

Curriculum

- **Aeromedical aspects of flight**
 - Earth's Atmosphere
 - Cabin Pressurization & Rapid Decompression
 - Impact & Sustained Acceleration
 - Motion Sickness
 - Ejection Seat & Aviation Life Support Systems
 - Anthropometry
 - Hypoxia & Hyperventilation
 - Spatial Disorientation

Curriculum (cont.)

- **Carrier Medicine & Role of the Aviation Medical Department**
 - Medical Intelligence
 - Preventive Occupational Health
 - Physical Standards & Waivers
 - Aviation Physical Exams
 - International Law
 - Law Of Armed Conflict

Curriculum (cont.)

- **Aviation Vision Topics**

- Lasers
- Night vision devices
- Color vision
- Prescribing for aviators
- Vision Standards
- Visual Illusions
- Aviation Vision literature research
- Aviation Contact Lens Program
- Refractive Surgery Studies

Curriculum (cont.)

- **Introduction to Flight Training & Aviation Environment**
 - Aerodynamics
 - Aviation weather
 - Control Tower & Airport Environments
 - Collision avoidance
 - US. Naval aircraft
 - Pilot Selection
 - Squadron Tour & Simulator Demo



Aviation Optometry Designation

- **Successful completion of the course confers the Additional Qualifying Designator (AQD) 6GA of Aviation Optometry. This indicates the student has exceeded the basic requirements as a member of the aeromedical team, and has superior knowledge and skills to assist the flight surgeon in rendering medical care to the aviation community.**

Aviation Optometry Career Opportunities

- **Shore Duty Stations**
 - Marine Corps and Naval Air Stations
 - Naval Aerospace Medical Institute
 - Naval Aerospace and Medical Research Laboratory
- **Operational Duty Stations (future possibilities)**
 - Carrier/Carrier Air Wing Billets

Eligibility

- **Any military optometrist**
 - Army
 - Air Force
 - Navy
 - Guard/Reserves

Enrollment

- **Navy optometrist can attend the course:**
 - in conjunction with PCS orders to an AQD coded billet, or
 - TAD/TDY funded by their own command
- **Other optometrists; as funded by their own services**

Cost

- **One month TAD/TDY**
 - Airline ticket, POV
 - ~\$1000 per diem
 - Car Rental (recommended)
 - Lodging (BOQ)
 - Meals & Incidental Expenses

Further Information

LCDR Steve Cooley

LCDR Ken Whitwell

Naval Aerospace Medical Institute

220 Hovey Road

Pensacola, Florida 32508

Comm: 850-452-2257x1052 or 1030

DSN: 922-2257x1052 or 1030

